

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the kind allowance of claims 17-19, 23, 28, and 29. It is noted that claims 32, 33, and 36 depend indirectly from allowed independent claim 17 and should also be allowed.

Upon entry of the forgoing amendments, claims 17-23, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, and 39-42 are pending in this application with claims 17, 20, 23, 28, and 39 being independent claims.

Claims 20-22 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these changes may be found in the specification in FIG. 2 and on page 8, line 13 through page 9, line 2 and on page 15, line 5 through page 16, line 1, among others.

Claim 28 has been amended to improve readability.

Claims 1-16, 24-27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 37, and 38 have been newly canceled, without prejudice.

New claims 39-42 also particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. However with this paper, claim 30 has been canceled rendering the rejection moot.

The 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103 Rejections

Claims 1-7, 14-16, 20-22, 24-27, and 31-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by *McHann, Jr.* (US 5,991,806). Claims 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over by *McHann, Jr.* in view of *Touboul* (US 6,125,390). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With this paper, claims 1-16, 24-27, 31, 34, 35, 37, and 38 have been canceled rendering the rejections with respect to these claims moot.

As noted above, claims 32, 33, and 36 depend indirectly from allowed independent claim 17 and should also be allowed and not rejected.

Also with this paper, claims 20-22 have been amended to include claim elements and/or limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Request for Allowance

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and an early allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

If any matters remain which could be resolved in a telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to expedite resolution of any such matters. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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